

## Executive Summary

In this annual report, *Idaho Traffic Collisions 2006*, the Idaho Transportation Department, Office of Highway Operations and Safety presents descriptive statistics about reportable traffic crashes.

A summary of findings for 2006 are listed below:

- Idaho's fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled was 1.75 in 2006. Idaho's rate is still significantly higher than the National fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, which was estimated to be 1.44 in 2006.
- While the number of motor vehicle collisions decreased by 14.2 percent to 24,225 in 2006, this decrease was due almost entirely to a legislative change in the property damage reporting threshold. The threshold was increased from \$750 in property damage to any one person to \$1,500 property damage to any one person and became effective January 1, 2006.
- The number of fatalities resulting from motor vehicle collisions decreased from 275 in 2005 to 267 in 2006, a 3 percent decrease.
- Just over 41 percent of the motor vehicle fatalities were the result of impaired driving. Of the 110 persons killed in impaired driving crashes, 87 percent were either the impaired driver, a person riding with an impaired driver, or an impaired pedestrian.
- Idaho's observed seat belt use reached an all time high of 80 percent in 2006. While the observed rate was 80 percent, only 39 percent of the motor vehicle occupants killed in collisions were wearing seat belts. If everyone had been wearing seat belts, 58 lives may have been saved.
- Aggressive driving was a contributing factor in 43 percent of the fatalities and was a contributing factor in 54 percent of the motor vehicle collisions in 2006.
- Youthful drivers, ages 15 to 19, continue to be over-involved in motor vehicle crashes. In 2006, youthful drivers were involved in 2.6 times as many fatal and injury collisions as you would expect them to be and were 2.9 times as likely as all other drivers to be involved in a fatal and injury crash.
- There were 8 pedestrians and 2 bicyclists killed in motor vehicle crashes in 2006.
- The number of motorcyclists killed in collisions continued to rise in 2006. Just over half of all motorcycle collisions and half of fatal motorcycle collisions involved a single motorcycle. There were 38 motorcyclists killed in motor vehicle collisions in 2006.
- Fatal collisions involving commercial motor vehicles decreased by 17 percent in 2006 and the number of injury collisions involving commercial motor vehicles decreased by 5 percent. There were 30 people killed and 750 people injured in commercial motor vehicle collisions in 2006.